MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture*) : A statement is laid on the Secretary's table.

MR P. K. KURIAKOSE : May I know the number of Veterinary institutions in the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There are 17 Veterinary hospitals and 9 Stockmens' Stations.

Transport of plantains.

551. * MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that plantains are not allowed to be transported from Cochin ;

(*b*) if so, whether they are aware of the fact that the Ernakulam markets are served by the agriculturists of Central and Northern Travancore for their supply of plantains ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the fact that the Northern taluk of Parur and portions of Kunnatnad have to depend upon Ernakulam market for their supply of plantains ; and

(*d*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, what action they have taken in the matter ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) to (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) In view of the answer to parts (*a*) to (*c*), the question does not arise.

Agricultural Department.

552. * MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any experiments are carried on for seed selection by the Agricultural Department ;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, to what extent they have succeeded in selecting paddy seeds meant to withstand the rigours of monsoons and of drought ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of any variety of cocoanut trees in Travancore bearing an annual yield of 500 nuts and above per tree ; and

(*d*) if they are aware whether any attempt has been made to collect nuts from those species of trees for distribution ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Improved seeds of "Chettivirippu" and "Ptb. 2" strains evolved in the Paddy Breeding Station at Monkompu and G. E. B. 24 and Adt. 13 selected in the Paddy Breeding Station at Adoor are able to withstand the rigours of monsoon and drought better than the cultivators' seeds.

(*c*) and (*d*) No. However attempts have been made to select nuts from good bearing trees which yield about 200 nuts per year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Minachil* cum *Todupuzha*): May I know from the member whether the experiments conducted are on farms owned by Government or by private individuals?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: These experiments are conducted on lands leased out from cultivators.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Leased by Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Do the Government undertake all the responsibilities for preserving the crops of the farms?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The question is not clear.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Thereby I mean do the Government give any return as remuneration to the owners of the land?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I thought the honourable member understood me when I said that the lands are leased out. It means that a certain amount of lease amount has to be given to the cultivator.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know whether this new variety of seed now selected is available for distribution among the ryots for cultivation?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, but not on a large scale. They are now under trial and the idea is to multiply and distribute them on a wider scale in the near future.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Has any steps been taken to propagate the seed and distribute it among the ryots?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know the quantity that has been reared during the last year?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I think in South Travancore 60,000 lbs. of Samba seeds were reared.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Is that the variety that is reared at Thirupathisaram? I asked about this particular variety. That is not fair.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Small quantity of about 200 to 300 lbs. were reared.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: It is the yield that has been taken by the Department by means of experiments in the experimental farms.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There seems to be some mistaken motion about this matter. A series of trials are being conducted with different kinds of seeds. Some of them may perform well while many will have to be cut off. Promising results have been obtained from a few and those varieties are being multiplied. It is the duty of the Department to see that only genuine seeds are given to the ryots.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: My question was whether the particular variety mentioned in part (b) of the question is being cultivated and their seeds distributed to the ryots.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : About 200 lbs. have been distributed so far and the idea is to distribute a larger quantity during the next season.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : In how many acres is this variety now being cultivated by the department ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; About 3 acres.

MR T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI ; May I know where these 3 acres are being cultivated ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : There are two paddy breeding stations, one at Moncombu and the other at Adoor.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI ; Is any attempt made to cultivate it in South Travancore ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; The honourable member knows that the peculiar conditions in these two regions are quite different from those obtaining in South Travancore.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know in how many areas they have begun cultivation of this particular seed ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; Quite a number of varieties are under test. These two varieties have been found to perform well and so they are being multiplied.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know for how many years this experiment is being conducted in these areas ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; For about three years.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE ; May I know whether there is not a special staff for this purpose in the Agricultural Department ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; There are Botanists engaged in this work.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathur*) ; May I know whether this particular seed has been distributed from the breeding station at Adoor ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : A small quantity has been distributed. The varieties have to be tested properly before they are multiplied and distributed on a large scale.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN : May I know whether they will be given to the producers ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR ; Yes, Sir.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE : May I know in how many places these seeds are being experimented ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I said in two stations; Moncombu in Kuttanad and Adoor in Central Travancore.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly